



November 9, 2007

In Memory of Our Heroes

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Todd Beamer
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Mark Bingham
Deora Bodley
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Georgine Rose Corrigan
Patricia Cushing
Jason Dahl, Capt.
Joseph Deluca
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Edward Porter Felt
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Andrew Garcia
Jeremy Glick
Lauren Grandcolas
Wanda A. Green, Crew
Donald F. Greene
Linda Gronlund
Richard Guadagno
Leroy Homer, Jr., First Officer
Toshiya Kuge
CeeCee Lyles, Crew
Hilda Marcin
Waleska Martinez
Nicole Miller
Louis J. Nacke, II
Donald A. Peterson
Jean Hoadley Peterson
Mark Rothenberg
Christine Snyder
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Honor Elizabeth Wainio
Deborah Ann Jacobs Welsh, Crew
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The Honorable Tom Tancredo
U.S. House of Representatives
1131 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tancredo:

It is with deep regret that the Families of Flight 93 recently learned of your letter to NPS Director Mary Bomar that has been posted on several websites. Especially unfortunate was to see your unquestioned support of the conspiracy theorist, Alec Rawls. Mr. Rawls continues to disseminate misinformation, twist facts, and incite emotional furor over the Flight 93 Memorial design based on supposed patriotic grounds. Mr. Rawls has perpetrated a complete fabrication that the memorial design represents an Islamic crescent, and he has distorted drawings and orientation of the memorial to suit his most unpatriotic and self-serving purposes.

Former NPS Director Mainella reported to you in October 2005 that changes to the design would be made. Indeed, the perceived crescent shape was shortly thereafter extended more completely into a circle to alleviate any further misinterpretation of the site plan graphic. The circle, a symbol of unity, is symbolically broken in two places – where the flight path of the plane entered the “bowl” topography, and at the crash site itself. The entire design is referred to as “The Flight 93 National Memorial.” Unfortunately, Mr. Rawls refuses to acknowledge these design alterations have been made. Instead, undaunted by the rational efforts of others to discuss these points with Mr. Rawls, he continues to focus his vehemence in various public media on the original crescent shape and to expound his equally preposterous opinions that the designer and design are Muslim or Islamist conspirators who seek to memorialize murderers. Nothing could be more offensive to the Families whose loved ones died so that folks like Mr. Rawls can be free to expel such hurtful and unsubstantiated accusations.

The Families of Flight 93 overwhelmingly support the design and the design process, and reaffirmed that support by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors as recently as two months ago. Oddly, when Mr. Gordon Felt, Treasurer, Families of Flight 93 last spoke to you in October 2005, you had indicated that you would support the design as long as the Families were satisfied. We are so satisfied, and have repeatedly and steadfastly said so, and so we are puzzled by your newfound trust of a self-serving conspiracy blogger who does not represent the opinions or interest of the Families in any way. Indeed, quite the opposite, as Mr. Rawls, in our opinion, undermines the integrity and honor of our loved ones who died on

Flight 93. We are also disappointed that neither you, nor your staff, have sought to establish what our position is with regard to this matter. The previous trust we placed in your word to one of our officers is now in doubt, as we have not been afforded the opportunity to learn of your changed position except through the blog Mr. Rawls' offers.

The Hon. Tom Tancredo

We do, however, continue to value your opinion, as we do for all regardless of whether they disagree with our support of the Memorial, or not. We also want to have your support, and so we extend to you our open-ended offer to have you visit the site at your earliest opportunity, talk with Families' representatives while there, and learn of how this elegant, but simple, design fits the terrain and meets the stated design competition expectations, as well as those of the Families and our partners.

Additionally, enclosed for your use and further information is a "White Paper" prepared by the project partners that documents the tremendously open and inclusive process by which the design was selected, the background of Alec Rawls' interference, the many opportunities and courtesies given to Mr. Rawls by the project partners to address his concerns, and his unwelcome overtures and veiled threats to the Families and the project, as well as a chart that counters Mr. Rawls' claims with the hard facts. Also enclosed is a letter sent by Flight 93 Advisory Commission Chairman John J. Reynolds to Mr. Rawls, requesting that he stop his persistent harassment, intimidation, and slander of the project partners.

We hope you find these documents useful, and we thank you in advance for your continued support of the Families of Flight 93 organization in our quest to build this memorial and honor the actions and the memories of our lost loved ones.

Sincerely yours,

FAMILIES OF FLIGHT 93

Ed Root, President
Patrick White, Vice-President
Gordon Felt, Treasurer
Carole O'Hare, Secretary
Debby Borza, Director
Beverly Burnett, Director
Christine Fraser, Director
Esther Heymann, Director
Christine Homer, Director
Elizabeth Kemmerer, Director
Catherine Miller, Director
Ken Nacke, Director
Hamilton Peterson, Director
Allison Vadhan, Director